



# SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – Dec. 10, 2009

## SALEM POLICE INVESTIGATE WEDNESDAY EVENING CRASH

On December 9, 2009 at 10:56pm, Salem Police Officers along with members of the Salem Fire and EMS department responded to a vehicle crash in the 800 block of West Main St. Upon arrival, officers discovered that a 1999 Jeep Cherokee had crashed into the Liberty Gas Station, located at 813 West Main St.

The Jeep was operated by Jeffrey Dillon, age 48, of Salem. Investigation revealed that Mr. Dillon was traveling west on 4<sup>th</sup> Street as he entered the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> St. and West Main. Mr. Dillon drove north through the intersection and into the parking lot of the Liberty Gas Station. He continued to travel north and his vehicle struck the Liberty Gas Station with such force that the Jeep went through the brick wall and eventually came to a stop inside of the gas station.

Fire officials were able to stabilize the building, so the car could be extracted and officers responding to the crash scene and were able to pull Mr. Dillon from his vehicle. He was not injured in the crash, but was taken to Lewis Gale Medical Center as a precaution and later released. No employees were injured as a result of the crash.

The Liberty Gas station and adjoining Burger King Restaurant were closed for the evening, but several employees did continue working inside the building. The structure sustained heavy damage, but there is no dollar estimate at this time. Traffic was rerouted around the intersection, but is back to normal.

Dillon was charged with Driving under the Influence of Drugs.

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